



Parent News

Supporting Student Success

Tuesday, Oct. 5

DCPS College Day
*Wear all your favorite
college gear to school!*

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Tuesday, Oct. 12

DC College Fair,
Walter Washington
Convention Center,
9 a.m.–1 p.m., 6–8 p.m.

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Wednesday, Oct. 13

PSAT (for grades 9, 10, 11)

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Monday, Oct. 18

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS:
Parent/Teacher
Conference Day

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Wednesday, Oct. 27

Chancellor's Community
Forum, 6:30–8 p.m.,
Burroughs EC (1820 Monroe
St. NE)

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Thursday, Oct. 28

12:15 p.m. student dis-
missal—*End of First Term:*
Records Day

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Friday, Oct. 29

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS:
*October Professional
Development Day for
Teachers and Aides*

Attend the DC College Fair!

The 2010 National College Fair will be held Oct. 12 at the Walter Washington Convention Center from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. and 6–8 p.m. Students and parents can meet one-on-one with college representatives, visit the Counseling Center to talk with a counselor about choosing majors, and go to the Resource Center to get information on financial aid, grants and scholarships. More than 220 colleges and universities have already committed to attend this year's fair.

The College Fair also will have workshops covering topics such as financial aid, standardized tests and the college application process. Students and parents are encouraged to pre-register online at www.gotomyncf.com with the colleges they intend to visit at the Fair. By pre-registering, student information only has to be entered once online, which eliminates the need to fill out numerous information cards during the fair. Students should contact their high school guidance counselor for further information on pre-registration. The convention center is located on Metro's Green Line at Mt. Vernon Square, 7th St. and Mt. Vernon Place, NW).

Get your student ready for college!**Take the PSAT for free.**

DCPS is dedicated to ensuring that all students are college-ready. Participating in the PSAT is an important step on that path. DCPS will administer the PSAT to all ninth-10th-and-11th-grade students at each high school on Wednesday, Oct. 13. This important test qualifies students for scholarships, provides important practice for later college admissions tests and enables the College Board to connect students with colleges and universities.



Students from Luke C. Moore Academy
Photo by Bel Perez-Gabliando

***Check in with DCPS'
progress by reading the
Annual Progress Report,
available online today at
www.dcps.dc.gov***



Student from Sousa Middle School
Photo by Meaghan Gay



*Student from Oyster-Adams Education Campus
Photo by Bel Perez-Gabliondo*

Would you like to know about DCPS straight from the Chancellor? Sign up to receive notes from her about the state of the school system and current events by logging on to www.dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/enews



*Student from Drew Elementary
Photo by Michael DeAngelis*

Parent Tip: How to have a successful parent/teacher conference

Now is the time to get to know your children's teacher(s)! Monday, Oct. 18, make time to visit your student's school and meet to discuss your student's progress. Here are some tips to get the most out of your visit.

Before the conference:

Talk to your child about how he or she feels about his or her progress. Write a list of any questions you want to bring up with the teacher or issues the student wants discussed.

During the conference:

You are the teacher's most valuable partner in educating your child. Use this conference as a time to build the respect and understanding that creates a strong partnership.

Conferences are for two-way communication. The teacher needs to hear from you about your child outside the classroom, just as you need to hear from the teacher about your child's work in the classroom.

Ask questions in order of importance in case time runs out.

Following your conference:

Take time to share with your child how the meeting went.

Ask your child to make suggestions for an action plan moving forward.

For more tips, please visit www.pta.org/2532.htm.

Learn About: Autism and DC Public Schools

The autism team is hosting a nine-session training for parents of DCPS elementary school students with challenging behaviors. This training was developed and will be presented by Dr. Dan Shapiro, a Board-certified pediatrician, a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a Member of the Society for Behavioral and Developmental Pediatrics. At each session, Dr. Shapiro will provide proactive strategies for raising children with difficult temperaments and developmental differences. His hour-long presentation will be followed by 30 minutes of informal parent discussion. Although the autism team is hosting this training, it is not limited to families of students with autism. The trainings will be held at the Ward 7 Parent and Resource Center at Shaed Elementary School on Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m. from Oct. 7 – Dec. 16. Interested families should register with Heather Rothenbuescher at heather.rothenbuescher@dc.gov or 202.480.0831.

Lost? Having trouble navigating the system?

The Critical Response Team is here to help you

As your student begins the school year, you may have questions about a variety of topics. The Critical Response Team (CRT) is here to help. The CRT specializes in helping parents and students navigate the many resources DCPS has available, and reports directly to Chancellor Rhee with your feedback. You may reach the Critical Response Team at **202.478.5738**. The phone line is staffed every weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Remember, your first and best source of information is the school staff. Please do not hesitate to contact the principal, nurse, or other school-based staff for help. However, if you still have questions after talking to the school staff, please contact the CRT. The CRT is happy to address your questions or help you find the right answers.